

IS WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE THROWING JOHN BARLEYCORN

Newly
Enfran-
chised
Voters
Close
1,000
Saloons in
Illinois.

Wyoming,
an Equal
Rights State
Since Its
Admission,
Still
Has Bars.



Will equal suffrage put an end to John Barleycorn? The recent elections in Illinois in which women voted for the first time caused 1,000 saloons in that State to be closed. Local option elections were held in many counties and towns and the vote of the women is given as being responsible for the closing of the saloons.

Saloon men in many parts of the country have bitterly opposed women's suffrage on the ground that women would vote the saloons out of existence. Temperance workers and prohibitionists long have been the friends of equal suffrage, yet the ballot given to women has not closed the saloons in Wyoming, which has been a woman's suffrage State since its admission to the Union and before.

Utah has woman's suffrage and licensed saloons. Other States are in the same class. Kansas is a prohibition State and is also a woman's suffrage State, but woman's suffrage followed prohibition. It was only two years ago that the voters of the Sunflower State gave women the right to vote. It was more than three decades ago that the State voted dry.

The allegation that women will vote as their husbands is flatly denied by women's suffrage leaders, who say their vote is not controlled by the men of their families. Women vote as they please. It is a fact, however, that they please to vote as their husbands in the majority of cases. Persons living in the same family have the same ideas on important questions and that accounts for the similarity in the ballot.

It is admitted by all, however, that women have been leaders in organizing temperance societies.

One hundred and six years ago the first temperance society was organized in this country. Since then the struggle between "wets" and "drys" has gone on without ceasing, the temperance army steadily gaining over the liquor interests, until now the prohibition crusade has swept forward to such an extent that in more than two-thirds of the territory of the United States the saloon has been abolished, while in most of the rest of the country it seems to be threatened with approaching extinction.

The United States has an area of 2,973,890 square miles. The area under no-license is 2,122,746 square miles, and only 841,144 is wet.

The population of the United States is 91,972,226. The population living in dry territory is 46,029,750, or 1,087,274 more than one-half.

The greater part of this no-license area has been captured by the dry army within the last ten and fifteen years, under the banner of the Anti-Saloon League, which is the most efficient fighting temperance organization ever formed.

DRINKING MORE COMMON IN EARLY DAYS.

The first American temperance society was organized by Dr. William J. Clarke, in 1808, in Saratoga County, N. Y., but it bore little resemblance to the temperance societies of today, and any member of our W. C. T. U. of today would pronounce this society of Doctor Clarke's nothing more nor less than a drinking club. Its forty-three members pledged themselves to cut everything intoxicating except beer from their list of drinkables. This was not only the first temperance society, but its members took the first temperance pledge ever signed in this country. The society exists to this day, and in 1908 its members celebrated the centennial of its founding, which was attended by temperance workers from over all the country.

Previous to the forming of this first temperance society there had been little agitation against drinking, although Doctor Rush of Philadelphia, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, wrote a pamphlet against drunkenness, which had a large circulation.

The early American was a hard drinker. The rich man had his sideboard, the poor man his jug. The rich man waved his guests to

the decanter, the poor man pulled the corn cob cork of his jug. Nearly everyone drank.

But there came a change in public sentiment, very gradually at first, but which kept on growing and expanding. In 1813 the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance was formed, and six years later a similar society was organized in Connecticut.

The first great temperance orator in this country was Dr. Lyman Beecher, a preacher of East Hampton, L. I., and one of the most powerful pulpits orators in America. In 1826 he amazed the whole country by a startling series of sermons against drinking and drunkenness. Out of this agitation came the American Temperance Union, which swept over the country. This was the first temperance crusade.

NEAL DOW MAKES MAINE DRY STATE.

In 1850, Neal Dow, Mayor of Portland, Me., had a neighbor with a large family, a good man and in the main a good provider, but he was addicted to going off on long drunken sprees and then he neglected his family. Finally this neighbor lost his job. His wife appealed to the saloonkeepers not to sell



GERHARD SISTERS PORTRAIT

him any more liquor. They laughed at her. She appealed to Neal Dow, the Mayor, and he went to see several saloonkeepers and they laughed at him, too. Right there and then Neal Dow consecrated his life to fighting the liquor traffic. He began making temperance speeches all over the State and in 1851, through his work, the legislature of Maine enacted the first State law prohibiting the liquor traffic. In 1854 Maine adopted a prohibition amendment to its constitution. It is yet a dry State.

Before the war there was no tax

on whisky, and no license was imposed for selling it. Nearly every grocery store in the country sold it openly, and it was drunk just as openly. Whisky was cheap. Its cost by the barrel was about 15 cents a gallon. The retail price of the pure article of 3-year-old bourbon or rye was about 40 cents a gallon, 15 cents a quart, 10 cents a pint, 5 cents a drink. The government put a tax on whisky, and other liquors to raise money to help pay the cost of the Civil War. This increased the price. And then the States, counties and cities began to

impose a license tax on saloonkeepers, providing severe penalties for selling liquors without license, and this was the greatest blow the liquor interests ever received. It contracted the sale and per capita consumption everywhere; but on the other hand, it formed a means of uniting and strengthening the fighting force of the wet army, and everywhere they drew together in association of wholesale and retail liquor dealers, brewers and distillers, with campaign funds of millions of dollars; and paid vigilance committees to watch for and try

and head off legislation antagonistic to the liquor interests.

The latest and the greatest of all the temperance movements is the Anti-Saloon League. It was organized in 1895 as the result of a casual conversation between Archbishop Ireland of the Catholic Church and the Rev. Alpha J. Key, then chairman of the permanent committee on temperance and prohibition of the Methodist Church. It differs from all other temperance societies in that it is an organization, not alone of individuals, but of organizations, too,

Constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of beverage alcoholic liquors.

The full results of the agitation that has been going on for upwards of a century against the saloon in this country is now reaching fruition in the united effort of the Anti-Saloon League. One of the earliest and most effective weapons was in having laws passed twenty-five years ago compelling the introduction into schools of textbooks from which boys and girls were taught that alcoholic liquors were medicinally worthless and

physically and morally destructive. In plain, simple language, such as would impress youthful minds, these textbooks described the baleful results of alcoholic indulgence.

The boys and girls of twenty-five and fifteen years ago, who studied from those textbooks and who were taught at the knees of their mothers, the women of the "crusade" and the W. C. T. U. are now men and women and they form a mighty army of antagonism to the saloon that is being expressed at the polls.

There is no doubt but that the teachings in the public schools have more to do with the vote in so many of the States than anything else. Many of the leading woman suffragists are not prohibitionists.

Clearing Tropical Forests.

In the true tropical forest agriculture is practically out of the question. Even for the white man it is difficult to clear the ground and for the sluggish son of the tropics it is almost impossible. No that he cannot cut the trees, although this is a slow process when the huge trunks throw out roots and trunks five to ten feet in radius but that having cut them he cannot dispose of them. The primary reason for the existence of the genuine tropical forest is that rain falls abundantly at practically all seasons.

There may be, and usually is, a short dry season, when the sun farthest from the zenith. Nevertheless, even at this time the drought is not absolute. When the trees are felled the only way of getting rid of them is by burning. Under the ardent tropical sun most trees become dry enough to burn in ten or three weeks, provided they do not become wet again in the meantime.

If rain falls, however, the trees, of course, dry much more slowly. They do not become ready to burn during the dry season it is useless to think of such a thing later. The will rot away, to be sure, and disappear within a few seasons, but this is of little use, for meanwhile a new growth has quickly sprouted in the tropical rain forest bushes will grow to a height of ten or twenty feet in a single year. Indeed, in the short space of two months so much herbage will spring up that a piece of forest which has been cut cannot be burned, even though the trees have become dry. This is no theory, but actual fact. In the spring of 1913, in a part of Guatemala where the forest is by no means of the densest kind, and where a considerable number of coffee plantations exist, I saw this happen. The trees had been cut, but so many showers fell during the nominal season that the branches did not become dry enough to burn, and consequently many people were unable to plant crops.

It Might Be Worse.

Stout-hearted as ever, although flat down in bed with sciatica, Clara Morris, the actress, sent a note to a reporter on her sixty-ninth birthday saying that she was happy for those reasons: First, because with her limited vision she could still see the notes of her guitar music and read the seed catalogues. Second, because her husband, lying ill in the same room after a stroke of paralysis, was better. Third, because her mother, aged ninety, had fought through pneumonia safely. In the cheerfulness of this brave little woman, shut up by and with sickness, lies a lesson for those of us who are wont to complain and lose hope when confronted by misfortunes comparatively trivial. Her point of view is her salvation. Nothing is so bad, according to Clara Morris, that it might not be worse.

Philosophy of the Chorus.

First Chorus Lady—You will hardly know George since his return from South Africa. He has lost all his money and—

Second Chorus Lady—Then I shan't know him at all, dear!